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NATIONAL OCEANIC AND ATMOSPHERIC ADMINISTRATION

(INCLUDING TRANSFERS OF FUNDS)

Appropriations, 2007	\$3,907,888,000
Supplemental appropriations, 2007	170,400,000
Budget estimate, 2008	3,809,584,000
Committee recommendation	4,214,888,000

The Committee recommendation provides \$4,214,888,000 for the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration [NOAA]. Of this amount, transfers total \$80,000,000. The recommendation is \$136,000,000 above the fiscal year 2007 enacted level, excluding supplemental appropriations, and \$405,000,000 above the budget request.

The Committee does not agree to provide annual appropriations for the Hollings Scholarship and the Nancy Foster Scholarship as requested. The Committee believes the funding mechanism set in place by Congress with the establishment of these scholarships is best for their continued long-term success. Furthermore, the Committee is concerned by the Department's attempt to change the authorization for these scholarships and directs the Department to address these issues through the appropriate authorizing committee.

The Committee has reviewed the U.S. Ocean Policy Report Card for 2006 issued by the Joint Ocean Commission Initiative, comprised of the Pew Ocean Commission and the U.S. Commission on Ocean Policy. This report comments that progress on Ocean Policy reform is uneven, with the overall grade rising modestly to a "C-", up from a "D+" average 2005.

At the beginning of 2007, the administration unveiled its most robust NOAA budget ever, touting new "Ocean Policy" initiatives and a 3.4 percent increase over the fiscal year 2007 request. Unfortunately, analysis reveals that many of the increases came at the expense of other NOAA programs. Overall, NOAA's budget request was \$268,704,000 below the fiscal year 2007 enacted level and \$111,856,000 below the fiscal year 2006 enacted level. This redirection and reallocation of existing resources is not the kind of bold leadership envisioned by the Joint Ocean Commission Initiative. If not for a year-to-year anomaly in NOAA's satellite budget, this year's request may have been like prior requests, one for the fishes. ←

Given the growing fiscal demands on the Department of Commerce's budget, namely the 2010 census, and ever increasing satellite costs at NOAA, the Committee is doubtful this administration will ever show the leadership and bold thinking required to address the true needs of our planet's oceans and atmosphere. In developing its recommendation, the Committee has taken the Commission's recommendations seriously, and the following funding recommendations for NOAA attempt to restore the agency's operational capacity for atmospheric research and build upon the Commission's request to advance our Nation's literacy, exploration, management and research of our world's oceans.

JOINT OCEAN COMMISSION INITIATIVE

The Committee continues to vigilantly monitor the health of the ocean community. The 2006 Report Card issued by the Joint Ocean

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Commission on January 30, 2007 highlighted the perpetual stagnation existing within our Nation's ocean and coastal research and management programs. Only two positive changes worth noting were, that regional and State governance continue to shamefully overshadowing Federal initiative on ocean issues, and substantial progress was made by Congress on fisheries management reform, namely with the successful reauthorization of then Magnuson-Stevens Fisheries Conservation and Management Act. The remainder of the Report Card was full of grim reminders in the lack of progress, despite the Committee's efforts last fiscal year to improve ocean funding.

One on-going recommendation made by of the Joint Ocean Commission describes needed increase in base funding for critical ocean and coastal science, and funding for new national initiatives. The Joint Ocean Commission recommends \$715,000,000 for these programs above the fiscal year 2006 enacted level. Of this amount, the Committee estimates \$511,000,000 directly apply to NOAA, which includes: coastal zone management program; regional coordination; coastal and estuarine land protection; National Marine Sanctuaries; Ocean Exploration; National Centers for Ocean Coastal Science; ocean and human health; National Undersea Research Program; integrated ocean observing system; National monitoring network; sediment research; Federal mapping integration; NOAA/Navy Communication Partnership; regional approaches to atmospheric deposition; ballast water research; aquatic invasive species; marine debris monitoring; social science and economics research; data management software; ocean education initiatives; and NOAA Sea Grant.

For fiscal year 2008, the Committee again showed bi-partisan leadership to elevate funding for ocean-related research, science and education, building upon its efforts from the fiscal year 2007 Senate report. The Committee was encouraged to receive a fiscal year 2008 budget request from the administration that increased some funds for ocean-related activities, referencing its own Ocean Action Plan. Although the funding increase was relatively modest, and in some cases mischaracterized, it did acknowledge a genuine awareness of the void in funding for ocean policy and programs.

The Committee built upon this effort by again meeting or exceeding the administration's request for programs identified by the Joint Ocean Commission. Worth noting is the Committee's support for more peer-reviewed, transparent granting opportunities by increasing, and even establishing, more competitive research accounts. In particular, the Committee provided an additional \$31,600,000 of grant funding under NOAA's Ocean and Atmospheric Research by increasing the competitive accounts within "Climate research", "Marine Aquaculture Research" and "Aquatic Invasive Species Research", and creating two new competitive accounts with "Weather & Air Quality Research" and "Ocean, Coastal and Great Lakes Research". Throughout the entire NOAA accounts, the Committee can point to more than \$425,000,000 worth of open, competitive funding. These funds are not at the expense of basic science operations and research requested by the administration, and are in addition to further increases the Committee made to several ocean-related programs such as the, the National

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Sea Grant Program, Ocean Exploration, National Marine Sanctuary Program, Response and Restoration, Navigation Services, Integrated Ocean Observing Systems and the Coral Reef Program.

Despite these efforts for one agency, the Committee continues to recognize how dramatically under-funded our ocean community is given the impact the marine and coastal environment has on our daily lives and on the world's climate. The Committee encourages further feedback for the Joint Ocean Commission, and requests another report card critiquing 2007.

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OPERATIONS, RESEARCH, AND FACILITIES

(INCLUDING TRANSFERS OF FUNDS)

Appropriations, 2007	\$2,738,169,000
Supplemental appropriations, 2007	170,400,000
Budget estimate, 2008	2,763,866,000
Committee recommendation	3,036,888,000

The Committee recommendation provides \$3,036,888,000. The recommendation is \$298,719,000 above the fiscal year 2007 enacted level, excluding supplemental appropriations, and \$273,022,000 above the budget request.

NOAA NATIONAL OCEAN SERVICE

The Committee recommends an appropriation of \$532,148,000 for the National Ocean Service [NOS]. NOS programs provide scientific, technical, and management expertise to promote safe navigation; assess the health of coastal and marine resources; respond to natural and human-induced threats; and preserve the coastal ocean and global environments.

Under NOS, the National Marine Sanctuary Program, Center for Operational Oceanographic Products and Services, and the Coastal Services Center shall all be elevated to program office status. This new designation for these programs will enhance service delivery and organizational efficiency for NOS personnel and users without creating additional costs.

Committee recommendations are displayed in the following table:

NATIONAL OCEAN SERVICE OPERATIONS, RESEARCH, AND FACILITIES

[In thousands of dollars]

	Committee recommendation
Navigation Services:	
Mapping & Charting	94,000
Geodesy	22,261
National Height Modernization	10,000
Tide and Current Data	31,863
Congressionally Directed Projects	1,700
Total, Navigation Services	159,824
Ocean Resources Conservation and Assessment:	
Ocean Assessment Program (OAP):	
Coastal Services Centers	27,000
Coop Institute for Coastal and Estuarine Enviro Tech (CICEET)	6,662
Ocean Health Initiative	5,400
Coral Reef Programs	30,000
Gulf Of Mexico Regional Collaboration	5,000
Ocean Research Priorities Plan Implementation	10,000
Regional Geospatial Modeling Grants	12,000
Subtotal, Ocean Assessment Program (OAP)	96,062
Integrated Ocean Observing System	37,000
Response and Restoration:	
Response and Restoration Base	17,951
Marine Debris	6,000
Pribilof Islands Cleanup and Economic Development	5,427

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NATIONAL OCEAN SERVICE OPERATIONS, RESEARCH, AND FACILITIES—Continued

[In thousands of dollars]

	Committee recommendation
Subtotal, Response and Restoration	29,378
National Centers for Coastal Ocean Science (NCCOS):	
NCCOS Head Quarters	5,000
Competitive Research	17,500
Center for Coastal Environmental Health and Biomedical Research	10,000
Oxford Cooperative Lab	4,500
Center for Sponsored Coastal Research	3,700
Center for Coastal Monitoring and Assessment	5,700
Center for Coastal Fisheries and Habitat Research	6,100
Marine Env. Health Research Lab—MEHRL	4,500
Subtotal, National Centers for Coastal Ocean Science	57,000
Congressionally Directed Projects	1,700
Total, Ocean Resources Conservation and Assessment	221,140
Ocean and Coastal Management:	
CZM Grants	74,000
CZM Non-Point Implementation Grants	4,000
National Estuarine Research Reserve System	16,806
Marine Protected Areas	2,128
Marine Sanctuary Program Base	50,000
Congressionally Directed Projects	4,250
Total, Ocean and Coastal Management	151,184
GRAND TOTAL NOS	532,148

[In thousands of dollars]

Project	Committee recommendation	Requested by
Geospatial Data Analysis Center, to provide weather stations for the purpose of providing near-real time data on soil moisture and temperature, Alabama A&M University, Normal, AL.	500	Shelby
Alabama GIS Mapping, to plan and produce a high resolution large scale geospatial database of Alabama, Alabama Department of Revenue, Montgomery, AL.	800	Shelby
Coastal and ocean navigation and hazards assistance, to provide a new capacity for access to assets for navigation and hazards assistance, University of South Carolina, Columbia, SC.	400	Graham
OCEAN RESOURCES CONSERVATION AND ASSESSMENT		
Coastal Restoration and Enhancement through Science and Technology—CREST, advances in science and technology in restoration programs, Louisiana State University, Baton Rouge, LA.	1,700	Landrieu
OCEAN AND COASTAL MANAGEMENT		
Maritime Museum, a collaborative effort with NOAA for the development of educational activities and exhibits, City of Mobile, AL.	500	Shelby
Point Loma Enhanced Monitoring Program, to monitor the local coastal ocean environment, City of San Diego, San Diego, CA.	1,000	Feinstein
Northwest Straits Citizens Advisory Commission, citizen-driven environmental protection, Washington St. Department of Ecology, Olympia, WA.	1,750	Murray, Cantwell
Urban Coast Institute, program support that establishes critical links necessary for integration of policy management decisions related to regional and coastal watershed, Monmouth University, West Long Branch, NJ.	1,000	Lautenberg, Menendez

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Integrated Coastal and Ocean Observation.—The Committee provides \$37,000,000 for the establishment of an Integrated Ocean Observing System competitive regional program, of which not less than 2 percent shall be available for the costs of administering this grant program. The Committee applauds the administration for finally proposing modest funding for this program. To encourage further commitment towards realization of an IOOS vision, the Committee recommendation provides \$10,000,000 for NOAA to establish an Integrated Ocean Observation System data management and communications center at Stennis Space Center. The Center should benefit from the resident expertise of the Naval Oceanographic Office as the demonstrated hub of naval oceanographic data collection, archiving, fusion, modeling, and distribution of oceanographic products. Existing NOAA facilities at Stennis Space Center, the National Data Buoy Center and the National Coastal Data Development Center currently provide NOAA quality data collection and assimilation. NOAA shall provide a report to the Committee no later than April 30, 2008, detailing full plans to implement this Center, including detailed out-year requirements, for full operation of the Center as the primary data management and communication center for the national IOOS program. The Committee directs this office to develop a comprehensive 5-year plan for the entire agency to fully implement a viable ocean observing paradigm for the Nation starting with NOAA's own resources and incorporating an inter-government operating plan and a regional data integration plan. Although NOS has the program lead, this plan must provide specific future funding recommendation for every line office in NOAA. In particular, a sufficient funding recommendation for the National Environmental Satellite, Data and Information Service should account for a long-term plan for data compliance between State, regional, Federal, and if possible, international systems. Future funding recommendations for program partners is also expected so as to provide the Committee with a realistic breakdown of IOOS impacts on a Federal level rather than the Joint Ocean Commission's vague description of operating costs. Given the amount of IOOS planning already underway within the administration and the National Ocean Partnership Program, this Committee directs NOAA to deliver a strategic plan for IOOS no later than April 1, 2008.

Mapping and Charting.—The Committee recognizes NOAA's Office of Coast Survey [OCS] as a critical component of our Nation's marine transportation infrastructure, and fully funds the fiscal year 2008 request for this office. OCS provides hydrographic survey data and updated nautical charts for the primary purpose of safe maritime navigation. Since 90 percent of U.S. commerce travels through our ports, accurate navigation is paramount to the stability of our economy, health of our marine environment, and safety of our men and women working on the water. More importantly, maritime shipping is growing at a larger rate each year with an increase in vessel size and an expansion of port facilities. The U.S. military and the U.S. Coast Guard depend on NOAA charts for navigation impacting their Homeland Security and Maritime Domain Awareness efforts. Without support to conduct nautical charting duties ensuring our waters are obstruction-free, our Nation

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runs the risk of an increase of maritime accidents with a direct impact to life, property and the marine environment.

Tides and Currents Data.—Of the funds provided, not less than \$1,500,000 shall be used for tide and current activities in the North Pacific. The Committee provides an additional \$3,000,000 above the President's request as an adjustment to NOAA's base to fully support the entire design, installation, maintenance, and operations of the Physical Oceanographic Real-Time System [PORTS] as authorized by Public Law 107-372. The Committee feels these operations, which exist as a partnership between NOAA and local port authorities, has been an extremely valuable tool for providing information for safe vessel navigation and data for weather and coastal monitoring used by other national programs.

Coral Reef Programs.—The funds include \$737,000 for Coral Reef Monitoring as requested by the administration under the NESDIS section. The Committee directs NOAA to consolidate agency-wide Coral Reef activities under this one, NOS line item for future budget requests and begin a deep sea coral program. The Committee shares the scientific community's concern that not enough research and mapping activities are being conducted on deep sea coral communities. The Magnuson-Stevens Reauthorization Act (Public Law 109-479) authorizes Department of Commerce to develop a Deep Sea Coral Research and Technology Program, which includes locating, monitoring, and researching deep sea corals. As per the act, the Committee requests a copy of the biennial reports detailing steps taken by the Secretary to identify, monitor and protect deep sea corals to date. NOS is directed to work with NMFS to use necessary funds from this account to make appropriate adjustments to deep sea coral research.

Response and Restoration.—These funds include the administration's request for the Estuary Restoration Program.

Marine Debris.—In fiscal year 2007, Congress passed the Marine Debris Research, Prevention, and Reduction Act (Public Law 109-449), legally authorizing the NOAA Marine Debris Program. For years, the Committee has been forced to carry the water for marine debris activities and is dismayed that the administration has again slighted this valuable program by not requesting funding, despite signing last year's bill into law. The Committee encourages the administration to add this program to the Office of Response and Restoration base in future fiscal year requests. Of the funds provided for this national program, no less than \$1,500,000 shall be used for Alaska.

National Height Modernization.—The Committee recognizes the need for a comprehensive, prioritized approach to funding height modernization projects throughout the nation and therefore provides \$10,000,000. The Committee directs NOAA to submit a list of priorities of those states to undergo further geodetic height modernization no later than 30 days after enactment of this act, and a prioritized list for fiscal year 2009 no later than April 1, 2008.

Regional Geospatial Modeling Grants.—The Committee provides \$12,000,000 and directs the Coastal Service Center, working with the National Coastal Data Development Center and coastal state programs, to establish a competitive program for researchers and resource managers to create useful and comprehensive models or

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geographic information systems using existing geodetic, costal remote sensing data, terrestrial gravity measurements or other physical datasets. Ideally, these products will assist with regional storm surge and flood modeling, disaster response preparedness, drought assessment or digital, web based Elevation Project for the Northern Gulf States to use as a model for other regional activities.

Coastal Services Center.—The Committee encourages NOAA to invest in a Resilient Coastal Communities effort by tying smart land use and building practices to the actuarial rating systems, so that owners and small businesses are incentivized to build smarter and stronger with assurances that if they do they will realize lower insurance rates. The Committee also encourages the Coastal Services Center to work closely with the National Institute of Standards and Technology on its “Disaster Resilient Communities” initiative that the Committee has recommended funding.

CZM Grants.—The Committee provides \$74,000,000 for the CZM grants program, of which not less than 10 percent shall be available for the costs of administering this grant program.

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NOAA NATIONAL MARINE FISHERIES SERVICE

The Committee recommendation provides \$763,136,000 for the National Marine Fisheries Service [NMFS]. NMFS programs provide for the management and conservation of the Nation's living marine resources and their environment, including fish stocks, marine mammals, and endangered species. Using science-based conservation, management, and restoration activities, these resources can benefit the Nation on a sustained basis. NMFS seeks to build sustainable fisheries, recover protected species, and sustain healthy coastal ecosystems and the communities that depend on them. Within the funds provided for NOAA, \$250,000 within NMFS shall be available until expended subject to procedures set forth in section 209 of Public Law 108-44.

Committee recommendations are displayed in the following table:

NATIONAL MARINE FISHERIES SERVICE OPERATIONS, RESEARCH, AND FACILITIES

[In thousands of dollars]

	Committee recommendation
Marine Mammals, Marine Turtles, and Marine Protected Species: Protected Resources Research and Management Programs	34,253
Subtotal, Protected Resources Research & Management Programs	34,253
Protected Species:	
Marine Mammal Protection (MMP)/NMFS Activities	41,821
Other Protected Species	8,170
Marine Turtles	14,325
Subtotal, Protected Species	64,316
Atlantic Salmon	5,926
Pacific Salmon	67,735
Congressionally Directed Projects	5,690
Total, Marine Mammals, Marine Turtles, and Marine Protected Species	177,920
Fisheries Research and Management:	
Core Fisheries Programs:	
Fisheries Research and Management Programs	151,014
Expand Annual Stock Assessments—Improve Data Collection	32,405
Economics and Social Sciences Research	10,586
Fisheries Statistics	13,183
Fisheries Oceanography	992
Interjurisdictional Fisheries Grants	2,567
Salmon Management Activities	24,280
National Standard 8	1,016
Reduce Fishing Impacts on Essential Fish Habitat (EFH)	509
Reducing Bycatch	2,808
Product Quality and Safety	6,977
American Fisheries Act	5,224
Congressionally Directed Projects	22,500
Subtotal, Core Fisheries Programs	274,061
Regional Councils and Fisheries Commissions	26,330
Fish Information Networks	22,206
Survey and Monitoring Projects	25,244
Congressionally Directed Projects	11,250

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NATIONAL MARINE FISHERIES SERVICE OPERATIONS, RESEARCH, AND FACILITIES—Continued

(In thousands of dollars)

	Committee recommendation
Total, Fisheries Research and Management	359,091
Enforcement and Observers:	
Enforcement and Surveillance	54,678
Observers/Training	32,295
Total, Enforcement and Observers/Training	86,973
Habitat Conservation and Restoration:	
Sustainable Habitat Management	19,143
Fisheries Habitat Restoration	29,772
Congressionally Directed Projects	5,500
Total, Habitat Conservation and Restoration	54,415
Other Activities Supporting Fisheries:	
Cooperative Research	10,315
Antarctic Research	2,106
Aquaculture	4,052
Chesapeake Bay Studies	1,967
Climate Regimes and Ecosystem Productivity	2,022
Computer Hardware and Software	3,380
Information Analyses and Dissemination	18,934
Magnuson-Stevens Act Implementation off Alaska	8,400
Marine Resources Monitoring, Assessment and Prediction Program (MarMap)	842
National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA)	8,075
NMFS Facilities Maintenance	6,046
Other Projects	5,000
Southeast Area Monitoring and Assessment Program (SEAMAP)	5,098
La Jolla Temporary Relocation	1,000
Congressionally Directed Projects	7,500
Total, Other Activities Supporting Fisheries	84,737
GRAND TOTAL NMFS	763,136

(In thousands of dollars)

Project	Committee recommendation	Requested by
MARINE MAMMALS, MARINE TURTLES, AND MARINE PROTECTED SPECIES		
Aleut Pacific Marine Resources Observers, to continue the real time monitoring of subsistence harvest, haul-out and shoreline observations of marine mammals in the Aleutian Islands and Alaska Peninsula Region, AL.	125	Stevens
Alaska Sea Life Center, for management measures to protect harbor seals and steller sea lions and multi-year interdisciplinary research in partnership with NMFS, Seward, AK.	5,200	Stevens
Alaska Sea Otter and Steller Sea Lion Commission, to establish a research program with local communities for sea lion conservation and management, Anchorage, AK.	215	Stevens
Alaska Native Harbor Seal Commission, to work together with NOAA on co-management issues of harbor seals and subsistence harvests, Anchorage, AK.	150	Stevens
CORE FISHERIES PROGRAMS		
Papahānaumokuākea Marine National Monument Fishery Disaster, to compensate NWHI fishermen for future lost revenue due to closure of fishing grounds, National Marine Fisheries, Hawaiian Islands, HI.	7,500	Inouye
Massachusetts Groundfish Disaster, to provide relief due to economic losses due to new fishing limitations on fishermen, Massachusetts Division of Marine Fisheries, Suffolk County, MA.	15,000	Kennedy, Kerry

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[In thousands of dollars]

Project	Committee recommendation	Requested by
FISHERIES RESEARCH AND MANAGEMENT		
Monkfish and Migratory Finfish Trawl Surveys, collection of data to accurately and efficiently manage fish resources. Garden State Seafood Assoc., Cape May, NJ.	1,500	Lautenberg, Menendez
Southern New England Cooperative Research Initiative, cooperative research and monitoring projects in southern New England. Commercial Fisheries Research Foundation, Narragansett, RI.	1,500	Reed
Hawaii Seafood Safety and Inspections, assistance for the Hawaii fishing and seafood industries to comply with new Food and Drug Administration seafood regulations. Pacific Marine Resources Inc., Honolulu, HI.	750	Inouye
Trawl Survey—Chesapeake Bay, to establish population assessments of juvenile marine and estuarine fish and invertebrates in the Chesapeake Bay, VA.	500	Warner, Webb
Horseshoe Crab Research, for continued research projects deemed essential for effective, science-based management of this critically important species. Virginia Tech, VA.	500	Warner, Webb
Oregon Salmon Weak Stock Solutions Research, research reducing by-catch of weak salmon stocks and avoiding long term closures of the salmon fishery. Hatfield Marine Science Center, Newport, OR.	500	Wyden
Fisheries Infrastructure, Investigation, Assessment and Improvement Project, to develop the intelligent command and control infrastructure systems stewardship architecture needed to support a sustainable fishing industry and fisheries ecosystem in this region. University of Alabama, Tuscaloosa, AL.	500	Shelby
Scallop Fishery Assessment (MFI), to determine conservation and sustainability measures to ensure a strong future for the New England Scallop fishery. Massachusetts Marine Fisheries Institute, Bristol County, MA.	2,000	Kennedy, Kerry
Center for Ecosystem-based Fisheries Management, operations to conduct fisheries based research in the Northern Gulf of Mexico from in-shore shallow waters out across the continental shelf. Dauphin Island Sea Lab, AL.	3,000	Shelby
Pelagic Tagging, for a west coast blue-fin tuna research program. Monterey Bay Aquarium, Monterey Bay, CA.	500	Feinstein
HABITAT CONSERVATION AND RESTORATION		
NAIB Conservation and Education Programs, for conservation and education programs of the marine environment. National Aquarium of Baltimore, Baltimore, MD.	1,000	Mikulski
Port Aransas Nature Preserve, to preserve endangered wetlands and help stop severe erosion in Port Aransas and along the Corpus Christi ship channel, TX.	500	Hutchison
Chesapeake Bay Oyster Restoration—MD, funding for on the water/in the field oyster restoration efforts. Oyster Recovery Partnership, Annapolis.	2,000	Mikulski, Cardin
Oyster Bed Reseeding and Fishery Habitat Enhancement, to conduct research on factors which adversely or beneficially affect oyster habitats in Alabama's estuaries, as well as actively enhance fishery habitat in both Alabama's estuaries and offshore waters. Univ. of South Alabama, Mobile, AL.	1,000	Shelby
Rehabilitation of Alaska Crab, funds will be used to allow the monitoring and restoration of depressed Alaskan crab in the following areas: Kodiak Island; the Pribilof Islands; and Dutch Harbor, Unalaska, AK.	300	Stevens
Lower Elwha River Habitat Restoration, dam removal—restoration and mitigation. Lower Elwha Klallam Tribe, Port Angeles, WA.	500	Murray
Merrimack River Fish Habitat, to continue the program to proactively conserve undeveloped river frontage and upland watershed, NH.	200	Gregg
OTHER ACTIVITIES SUPPORTING FISHERIES		
Aquatic Genomics and Biosecurity Research, to serve as a system for early detection and warnings for pathogens and other contaminants in our aquatic environments. Auburn University, Auburn, AL.	1,000	Shelby
Groundline Exchange Program, to coordinate a Maine groundline exchange program providing financial assistance to lobstermen by enabling them to purchase "whale-safe" rope in exchange for their existing groundline. Gulf of Maine Lobster Foundation, ME.	500	Collins, Snowe
Bering Sea Fishermen's Association, funds will be used to allow the monitoring and restoration of depressed salmon stocks under the management of one organization that serves and represents all affected fishermen, AK.	200	Stevens

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[In thousands of dollars]

Project	Committee recommendation	Requested by
Yukon River Drainage Association, funds will be used by the Association to promote healthy wild salmon fisheries by monitoring efforts, conducting research, and education efforts aimed at improving subsistence and commercial fisheries management, Yukon River, AK.	400	Stevens
Gulf of Alaska Coastal Communities Coalition, funds will be used to assist the smaller fisheries-dependent coastal communities of the Gulf of Alaska with the regulatory process by participating on research boards, and developing management plans, AK.	200	Stevens
Louisiana Fisheries Recovery Resource Center, funding for planning and initial costs to launch center, Xavier University, Plaquemines Parish, LA.	550	Landrieu
New England Multi-Species Survey, for multi-species groundfish surveys, School of Marine Science and Technology, Bristol County, MA.	3,000	Kennedy, Kerry
Western Pacific pelagic fisheries research, research to aid efforts to develop and implement strategies for the conservation and management of pelagic fish species, University of Hawaii—Joint Institute of Marine and Atmospheric Research, Honolulu, HI.	1,250	Inouye
Fishing Mortality Education Program, to develop a local educational program for K-12 students and other user groups in order to minimize discard or release mortality of reef fishes, City of Orange Beach, AL.	100	Shelby

Protected Species.—Of the funds provided under Marine Mammal Protection, \$7,900,000 is provided for Right Whale activities including Cooperative State Plans, and \$2,600,000 is for the continuation of Hawaiian Monk Seal activities. Of the funds provided under Marine Turtles, \$7,800,000 is for Hawaiian turtles.

Commercial Fishing Assistance.—The Committee recommendation provides \$7,500,000 for assistance related to fishery impacts associated with the creation of the Papahānavmokuākea Marine National Monument in the State of Hawaii and \$15,000,000 is provided to the Massachusetts Division of Marine Fisheries, Boston, MA to alleviate economic impacts associated with Framework 42 on the Massachusetts groundfish fishery.

The Committee supports continuation of the surf clam and ocean quahog survey and NOAA's efforts to design and fund shallow draft Fisheries Survey Vessels to meet NOAA's unique survey requirements.

Fisheries Habitat Restoration.—The Committee provides no more than \$4,500,000 for the Open Rivers initiative, though the Committee supports the President's Request for the Penobscot River Habitat Restoration by providing \$10,000,000. The Committee recognizes this project as a timely opportunity to leverage current regional resources to revitalize this large-scale marine and estuarine habitat. However, the Committee has strong concerns about NOAA taking the full, long-term financial lead in such a large, cross-agency project, especially since a majority of the requested funds will be spent purchasing privately-owned dams. Though the Committee recognizes NOAA's expertise in smaller dam-removal and fish passageway projects, this project is an order of magnitude larger than any previous project undertaken by the agency, and pushes the limits of the agency's authority to use funds from NMFS's operations account to purchase multi-million dollar facilities. This Committee admonishes the administration for carelessly exposing NMFS's base funding to future large scale, re-development projects that would jeopardize the agency's financial support for standard

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national fisheries activities and responsibilities. Given that this is a multi-year project, the Committee directs NOAA to coordinate with the Departments of Interior and Energy, and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, to determine an appropriate role for the agency solely as a habitat restoration advisor to its Federal and State partners, and eliminate the agency's questionable role as a broker for future large-scale, riverine construction projects. In future years, the Committee will support NOAA's participation in habitat restoration projects, which is an on-going, environmental assessment process, but it will no longer appropriate funds from the ORF account to purchase costly, private dams.

Facilities.—The Committee understands the National Marine Fisheries Service's desire to redevelop its Mukilteo research station. This research station has been recognized as a vital component of NMFS research for over 30 years, particularly for scientific issues relating to salmon, groundfish, marine toxicology and harmful algal bloom. The Committee directs NOAA to prepare, by September 30, 2008, a preliminary conceptual report on the redevelopment of this site, complete with a plan to include funding for this project in future budget requests.

Chesapeake Bay Oyster Restoration.—The Committee provides \$2,000,000 for oyster restoration, in the Chesapeake Bay. Funds provided for oyster restoration in the Maryland waters of the Chesapeake Bay shall be for on-the-ground and in-the water restoration efforts. Funds shall not be used for administrative costs, including banquets or salaries.

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NOAA OCEANIC AND ATMOSPHERIC RESEARCH

The Committee recommendation provides \$428,193,000 for Oceanic and Atmospheric Research [OAR]. OAR programs provide the environmental research and technology needed to improve NOAA weather, air quality warnings, forecasts, climate predictions, and marine services. To accomplish these goals, OAR supports a network of scientists in its Federal research laboratories, universities, and joint institutes and partnership programs.

Committee recommendations are displayed in the following table:

OCEANIC AND ATMOSPHERIC RESEARCH OPERATIONS, RESEARCH AND FACILITIES

(In thousands of dollars)

	Committee Recommendation
Climate Research:	
Laboratories and Cooperative Institutes	53,500
Climate Observations and Services	9,152
Competitive Research Program	140,000
High Performance Computing Initiatives	12,969
Congressionally Directed Projects	1,100
Total, Climate Research	216,721
Weather and Air Quality Research Programs:	
Laboratories and Cooperative Institutes	46,000
NOAA/NASA Severe Storm Research and Development	2,500
Tornado Severe Storm Research/Phased Array Radar	2,972
Competitive Research Program	10,000
Congressionally Directed Projects	8,800
Total, Weather and Air Quality Research	70,272
Ocean, Coastal and Great Lakes Research:	
Laboratories and Cooperative Institutes	23,000
National Sea Grant College Program	60,000
National Undersea Research Program (NURP)	15,000
Ocean Exploration	20,000
Aquatic Invasive Species Research	1,500
Marine Aquaculture Research	6,000
Competitive Ocean Research Program	10,000
Congressionally Directed Projects	5,700
Total, Ocean, Coastal and Great Lakes Research	141,200
GRAND TOTAL OAR	428,193

(In thousands of dollars)

Project	Committee recommendation	Requested by
CLIMATE RESEARCH		
Drought Research Study, to continue to study potential options to minimize the impact of droughts on Alabama and the Southeast, Univ. of Alabama at Huntsville, Huntsville, AL.	600	Shelby
Understanding Abrupt Global Climate Change, for researchers to address relevant issues related to the range, magnitude, forcing, and predictability of abrupt climate change events, Univ. of Maine, Orono.	500	Snowe, Collins
WEATHER AND AIR QUALITY RESEARCH PROGRAMS		
Wind Hazards Reduction Program, for research into reducing wind related damage from storms and tornados, Iowa St. University, Ames, IA.	750	Harkin, Grassley

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[In thousands of dollars]

Project	Committee recommendation	Requested by
Urbanet III, for continuation of the NOAA Air Resource Laboratory's Urbanet Partnership to expand the number of metropolitan areas covered by the Urbanet system to improve weather forecasting, AWS Convergence Technologies, Germantown, MD.	6,000	Mikulski, Cardin
Project STORM Air Quality Initiative, air quality research, University of Northern Iowa, Cedar Falls, IA.	750	Harkin, Grassley
San Joaquin Valley Ozone Study, for data and analysis to support the upcoming 8-hour ozone attainment plans, Central California Air Quality Control Study Policy Committee.	150	Feinstein, Boxer
Advanced Radar Technologies, a feasibility study to determine the applicability of advanced radar technologies to cover the radar hole in northeastern Wyoming with low level radar coverage.	100	Enzi
Coastal and Inland Hurricane Monitoring and Protection Program, to acquire the ability to predict the intensity and potential damage of hurricanes affecting the Gulf Coast, Univ. of South Alabama, Mobile, AL.	750	Shelby
Tornado and Hurricane Operations and Research, to improve detection, tracking, and forecasting of tornadic thunderstorms and land-falling hurricanes in the Southeast United States, University of Alabama at Huntsville, Huntsville, AL.	1,000	Shelby
Coastal Weather for Catastrophic Events, to provide coastal Alabama appropriate weather monitoring equipment to measure wind gusts, water surge and rain fall levels during a catastrophic event such as hurricane, Univ. of South Alabama, Mobile, AL.	300	Shelby
OCEAN, COASTAL AND GREAT LAKES RESEARCH		
Lake Champlain Emerging Threats, research targeting understanding and mitigating invasive species, University of Vermont, Burlington, VT.	500	Leahy
Advanced Undersea Vehicle, for an advanced undersea mapping sonar, Mystic Aquarium—Institute for Exploration, Mystic, CT.	450	Dodd, Lieberman
International Arctic Research Center, to support further integrating and synthesizing arctic research efforts in terms of climate change, Univ. of Alaska, Fairbanks, AK.	2,950	Stevens
Coastal vulnerability to climate change study, to look at impacts, response strategies and predictions for rural Alaska coastal communities.	1,000	Stevens
New Hampshire Lake Host Program, for education program to prevent the spread of milfoil and other invasive species in lakes and ponds, NH.	200	Gregg
New Hampshire Volunteer Lake Assessment Program, for evaluation of quality of lakes and ponds in NH through trained volunteer program, NH.	200	Gregg
Collaborative R&D Initiative for the Gulf of Mexico, will allow for collaboration between federal agencies in Alabama and research universities to more effectively complete NOAA missions, Von Braun Center for Science and Innovation, Huntsville, AL.	1,000	Shelby
Lake Champlain Research Consortium, research to identify sources of harmful bacteria, University of Vermont, Burlington, VT.	250	Leahy
West Alabama Marine Shrimp and Fish Aquaculture, to develop new methods and find efficiency in the development of marine shrimp and fish aquaculture using ponds and the saline water of West Alabama, AL.	250	Shelby

Laboratories and Cooperative Institutes.—Of the funds provided for Laboratories and Cooperative Institutes throughout Oceanic and Atmospheric Research, the Committee provides additional funding for NOAA to further its commitment to the NOAA Joint Institute for the Northern Gulf of Mexico.

Weather and Air Quality Research Programs, Laboratories and Cooperative Institutes.—The Committee applauds the administration's request to use unmanned aerial systems [UAS] both in Arctic climate analysis and in weather research. The Committee builds upon that request to provide a total of \$6,000,000 for UAS implementation, and encourages OAR to not only work with industry, but also with NOS and NWS to explore how these applied research

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projects can transition into practical operations for other NOAA programs.

National Sea Grant College Program.—The Committee directs NOAA to increase the program's state-wide partnerships and the program's competitive, national grant programs.

National Undersea Research Program.—Although the Committee approved the overall OAR reprogramming which included the merger of Ocean Exploration and the National Undersea Research Program [NURP] in 2006, the Committee awaits a formalized plan detailing the breakout and vision of the new arrangement. Given the diverse portfolio and direction of each program, the Committee is concerned about how financially combining these two unique programs will impact the exploration and advanced technology communities. Therefore, the Committee separates NURP's funding from the administration's request for Ocean Exploration. Of the funds provided, \$6,000,000 is required for the National Institute of Undersea Science and Technology. Given that the Administration has decided to combine NURP and Ocean Exploration in future years, the Committee directs NOAA to provide a strategic and financial plan for such a merger prior to, or in addition to, the administration's fiscal year 2009 budget request. The Committee recognizes the program's direction to develop advanced technology and encourages such advancements rather than applying funds to maintain basic, applied research facilities.

Of the funds provided for NURP, the Committee directs NOAA to provide sufficient funding to each of the existing six NURP centers.

Ocean Exploration.—The administration's disjointed request for Ocean Exploration, which includes funding for NURP, a transfer to NMAO, and a new initiative for Extended Continental Shelf [ECS] mapping (all without alleged cuts to base) does not add. To alleviate this problem, the Committee supports the adjustment to base for NOAA's Marine Operations for basic operation of the *Okeanos* research vessel, but does not approve the administration's request to transfer funds from OAR. The Committee also does not support the fiscal merger between Ocean Exploration and NURP. The Committee does support the administration's request for Extended Continental Shelf mapping, but is concerned that this effort will eclipse the program's underlying effort to explore the world's oceans through peer-reviewed, competitive research proposals. The Committee is apprehensive that the proposed ECS mapping effort, which includes among other activities, benthic habitat mapping activities and high-resolution imagery, will siphon more money from the program than is necessary for traditional ESC submissions, which are based on marine seismic and sonar data. While the Committee supports multidisciplinary operations to maximize vessel time, strictly traditional bathymetric mapping operations may achieve the goals of ESC submissions more economically. Therefore, in addition to increasing Ocean Exploration's base for standard operations, the Committee provides \$3,400,000 for ECS mapping, which reflects the administration's true request for this new initiative, rather than the \$8,000,000 it touted during the budget rollout as "new funds" to support the administration's U.S. Ocean Action Plan. The Committee also directs the administration to le-

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verage the Office of Coast Survey's expertise and existing mapping contracts to help distribute the operation funding.

Aquatic Invasive Species Program.—The Committee supports the administration's request for NOAA's Aquatic Invasive Species Program, and provides additional funding to increase the amount of national grants administered by NOAA to further detect, monitor and reduce the impact of aquatic invasive species.

Marine Aquaculture Research.—The Committee is encouraged by the administration's request to increase the Nation's research and knowledge within the field aquaculture. The Committee directs NOAA to distribute the funds equally among three regions: Atlantic, Pacific and Gulf of Mexico.

Climate Research, Competitive Research Program.—The Committee provides these funds to allow NOAA to design, conduct, and administer a competitive, peer-reviewed grant process targeted on innovative climate research. The Committee directs NOAA to focus these funds on the topics of drought research.

Weather and Air Quality Research Programs, Competitive Research Program.—The Committee provides these funds to allow NOAA to design, conduct, and administer a competitive, peer-reviewed grant process for the purposes of weather research. The Committee directs NOAA to focus this year's funds to cooperatively work with universities from coastal States on the topics of coastal weather, severe weather, and hurricanes.

Ocean, Coastal and Great Lakes Research, Competitive Ocean Research Program.—To further encourage competitive, peer-reviewed research within the ocean science community, the Committee provides funding for NOAA to work with the coastal and Great Lakes universities to implement and administer grants focusing on the ocean's role in climate change as encouraged by the Joint Ocean Commission Initiative.

Advanced Radar Technologies.—The Committee recognizes the need for additional low level radar coverage in Wyoming and provides \$100,000 for NOAA and the National Weather Service to work with the University of Massachusetts and the National Science Foundation, under the umbrella of the Collaborative Adapting Sensing of the Atmosphere [CASA] program, to conduct a feasibility study to determine the applicability to northeastern Wyoming of advanced radar technologies under investigation by CASA.

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NOAA NATIONAL WEATHER SERVICE

The Committee recommendation provides \$819,117,000 for the NOAA National Weather Service [NWS]. NWS programs provide timely and accurate meteorologic, hydrologic, and oceanographic warnings and forecasts to ensure the safety of the population, mitigate property losses, and improve the economic productivity of the Nation. NWS is also responsible for issuing operational climate forecasts for the United States.

Committee recommendations are displayed in the following table:

NATIONAL WEATHER SERVICE OPERATIONS, RESEARCH, AND FACILITIES

[In thousands of dollars]

	Committee Recommendation
Observations, Forecasts, and Communications:	
Local Warnings and Forecasts:	
Local Warnings and Forecasts Base	591,465
Strengthen U.S. Tsunami Warning Network	23,196
Air Quality Forecasting	5,445
Sustain Cooperative Observer Network	1,871
NOAA Profiler Network	4,736
Pacific Island Compact	3,515
USWRP—U.S. Weather Research Program—THORPEX	6,000
Alaska Data Buoys	1,683
Congressionally Directed Projects	6,060
Subtotal, Local Warnings and Forecasts	643,971
Operations and Research:	
Advanced Hydrological Prediction Services	6,037
Aviation Weather	4,653
WFO Maintenance	7,316
Central Forecast Guidance	46,748
NOAA's Hurricane Center	7,000
Congressionally Directed Projects	4,750
Subtotal, Operations and Research	76,504
Total, Observations, Forecasts, and Communications	720,475
Systems Operation & Maintenance:	
NEXRAD	44,176
ASOS	8,891
Weather Radio Transmitters and Communications	2,297
AWIPS	37,766
NWSTG Backup - CIP	5,512
Total, Systems Operation & Maintenance	98,642
GRAND TOTAL NWS	819,117

[In thousands of dollars]

Project	Committee recommendation	Requested by
LOCAL WARNINGS AND FORECASTS		
Susquehanna River Basin Flood System, funding for flood inundation maps and capitol improvements to flood warning system, Susquehanna River Basin Commission, Harrisburg, PA.	2,000	Specter, Mikulski
New England Weather Technology initiative, for continued weather technology and observation at Plymouth State University, NH.	200	Gregg

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[in thousands of dollars]

Project	Committee recommendation	Requested by
Vermont Weather & Wind Data Integration, integration of National Weather Service and US Fish and Wildlife Service to conduct monitoring of bird migration patterns, Vermont Department of Fish and Wildlife, Waterbury, VT.	250	Leahy
Hawaii Rain Gages to purchase, install and maintain rain gages, NOAA National Weather Service Pacific Region Headquarters, County of Honolulu, HI.	360	Akaka
Hurricane Mitigation Alliance, research to develop cost effective techniques for reduction of hurricane hazards to life and property, Florida International University, Miami-Dade County, FL.	500	Bill Nelson
Hawaii Weather Buoy, for the installation of buoy northeast of main Hawaiian Islands, National Weather Service Pacific Region Headquarters, County of Honolulu, HI.	1,400	Akaka
Perdido Pass Navigation Assistance, for a weather buoy for the near-shore waters of Perdido Pass along the Gulf Coast of AL, AL.	300	Shelby
Eye-On-The-Sky, continue and expand meteorology reporting, education and outreach efforts, Fairbanks Museum and Planetarium St. Johnsbury, VT.	300	Leahy
Western Kentucky Environmental Monitoring Network, to complete the development of a monitoring system that will collect real-time observations through a statewide grid of stations in Kentucky administered, Western Kentucky University Research Foundation, Bowling Green, KY.	750	McConnell
OPERATIONS AND RESEARCH		
Improved hydrologic modeling of water resources for snow-dominated regions, funds will be used to develop an operational hydrology model for mountain-front hydrologic systems based on new research that advances knowledge on physical mechanisms by which water moves from mountains to valleys, Boise State University, Boise, ID.	250	Craig
Remote Infrasonic Monitoring of Natural Hazards, to support research in long-ranging atmospheric sound below the perception of human hearing to provide better warnings to those in danger of the effects of hurricanes and volcanic eruptions, Joint Project with University of MS, University of HI, University of AK, and University of California at San Diego.	2,500	Cochran
Regional Ensembling System for Atmospheric Dispersion Forecasting, to construct a dispersion forecasting capability tailored for application in the Gulf Coast Region with activity focused on the development of ensemble methods and data assimilation techniques, Jackson State University, Jackson MS.	2,000	Cochran

Williston Radar.—The Committee is concerned about radar coverage in the State of North Dakota and directs NOAA to maintain staffing and operations at the Williston Radar site through fiscal year 2008.

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NOAA NATIONAL ENVIRONMENTAL SATELLITE, DATA, AND INFORMATION SERVICE

The Committee recommendation provides \$172,254,000 for National Environmental Satellite, Data, and Information Service [NESDIS]. NESDIS programs operate environmental polar-orbiting and geostationary satellites and collect and archive global environmental data and information for distribution to users in commerce, industry, agriculture, science and engineering, the general public, and Federal, State, and local agencies.

Committee recommendations are displayed in the following table:

NATIONAL ENVIRONMENTAL SATELLITE, DATA AND INFORMATION SERVICE OPERATIONS, RESEARCH, AND FACILITIES

(In thousands of dollars)

	Committee recommendation
Environmental Satellite Observing Systems:	
Satellite Command and Control Base	36,968
NSOF Operations	7,531
Product Processing and Distribution	30,408
Product Development, Readiness and Application	20,015
Product Development, Readiness and Application (Ocean Remote Sensing)	3,861
Joint Center/Accelerate Use of Satellites	3,258
Commercial Remote Sensing Licensing and Enforcement	1,262
Office of Space Commercialization	612
Group on Earth Observations (GEO)	500
Total, Environmental Satellite Observing Systems	104,415
Data Centers and Information Services:	
Archive, Access and Assessment	34,677
Maryland	5,600
Kentucky	993
North Carolina	275
West Virginia	1,434
Coastal Data Development	4,506
Environmental Data Systems Modernization	9,404
Congressionally Directed Projects	10,950
Total, NOAA's Data Centers and Information Services	67,839
GRAND TOTAL NESDIS	172,254

(In thousands of dollars)

Project	Committee recommendation	Requested by
DATA CENTERS AND INFORMATION SERVICES		
Cooperative Institute for Remote Sensing Applications, for the purpose of advancing knowledge and understanding of the environment using information technologies and remote sensing systems, University of Alabama at Huntsville, Huntsville, AL.	1,200	Shelby
International Pacific Research Center, to conduct systematic and reliable climatographic research of the Pacific region, University of Hawaii, Honolulu, HI.	2,000	Inouye
Regional Climate Centers, cooperative agreement with the National Climatic Data Center, Univ. of NE, Lincoln, NE; Illinois State Water-Survey, Champaign, Illinois; Cornell University, Ithaca, New York; S.C. Dept. of Natural Resources, Columbia SC; Louisiana State Univ., Baton Rouge, Louisiana; Desert Research Institute, Reno Nevada.	5,000	Schumer, Clinton, Ben Nelson, Bill Nelson, Obama

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[In thousands of dollars]

Project	Committee recommendation	Requested by
Integrated Data and Environmental Applications Center, funding support for critical regional needs for ocean, climate, and ecosystem information (IDEA), NOAA IDEA Center, Honolulu, HI.	2,750	Inouye

Data and Climate Centers.—The Committee encourages NOAA to continue to coordinate its climate data management and archival activities for the Western Pacific Region with the ongoing efforts of the University of Hawaii's Asia-Pacific Data-Research Center. The Committee is also encouraged by NOAA's responsiveness in establishing the NOAA Integrated Data and Environmental Applications Center to address environmental data and information requirements in the Pacific.

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NOAA-WIDE PROGRAM SUPPORT

The Committee recommendation provides \$207,379,000 for NOAA-wide program support. These programs provide for overall NOAA management, including staffing of the Under Secretary's office and services to NOAA and DOC field offices through the regional Administrative Support Centers. These programs also support NOAA's Education Office consistent with the recommendations of the Ocean Commission. The Facilities sub-activity provides for repair and maintenance to existing facilities; facilities planning and design; and environmental compliance. The Office of Marine and Aviation Operations provides aircraft and marine data acquisition, repair, and maintenance of the existing fleet, planning of future modernization, and technical and management support for NOAA-wide activities through the NOAA Commissioned Corps.

Committee recommendations are displayed in the following table:

PROGRAM SUPPORT OPERATIONS, RESEARCH, AND FACILITIES

(In thousands of dollars)

	Committee recommendation
Corporate Services:	
Under Secretary and Associate Offices Base	30,000
Facilities	18,954
NOAA Wide Corporate Services and Agency Management	124,000
DOC Working Capital Fund	34,425
Total, Corporate Services	207,379
NOAA Education Program:	
NOAA Education Program/Education Initiative	12,000
BWET Regional Programs	12,000
JASON Education and Outreach	1,000
Educational Partnership Program/Minority Serving Institutions (EPPMSI)	15,418
Congressionally Directed Projects	1,950
Total, NOAA Education Program	42,368
Marine Operations and Maintenance:	
Aviation Services	25,793
Marine Services	131,500
Total, Marine Operations and Maintenance	157,293
GRAND TOTAL PS	407,040

(In thousands of dollars)

Project	Committee recommendation	Requested by
NOAA EDUCATION PROGRAM		
Narragansett Bay Marine Education, curriculum development and operation of youth and adult education programs, Save the Bay, Providence, RI.	1,000	Reed, Whitehouse
Center for the Great Lakes, conservation education, Shedd Aquarium, Chicago, IL.	300	Durbin
John Smith Water Trail, installation of interactive bouys marking the John Smith National Water Trail on the Chesapeake Bay, The Conservation Fund, Arlington, VA.	500	Warner, Mikulski, Cardin, Webb
Anacostia Watershed Education, support for classroom education and teacher training on conservation, Anacostia Watershed Society, Bladensburg, MD.	150	Mikulski

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NOAA Leadership and Culture.—The Committee is concerned that after three decades in existence and in spite of recent leadership guidance, many of the NOAA line offices operate as autonomous entities acting alone without considering the greater good of the agency. NOAA has a long track record of success but it is the Committee's firm belief that one line office would undercut another line office in an instant if it could receive additional funding. This culture is detrimental to the entire agency's mission. Because of these concerns the Committee directs NOAA to contract with the National Academy of Public Administration to examine these issues and improve NOAA's culture.

Marine Services.—This account consolidates all the items within the administration's request for "Marine Operations and Maintenance", including the administration's request of \$5,600,000 for operations and maintenance of the *Okeanos* research vessel. These funds are appropriated as a direct adjustment to the base of the Marine Operations account without supporting the requested \$4,600,000 transfer of funds from the Oceans and Atmospheric Research account. Far too often NOAA's Marine and Aviation Operations rely on transfers of funds from NOAA line offices for non-science vessel operations, which distort the true costs of basic operations for these valuable, national assets. In future fiscal years, NOAA is required to provide a budget request for basic vessel operations that does not include funding transfers from other line offices for basic vessel operations. The Committee also provides \$500,000 for NOAA to administer a feasibility study, performed by an outside organization, to evaluate the design and operations of future research vessels in the form of a NOAA Survey Vessel designed for multi-mission operations, to maximize on-site activities and modularize for versatile platform availability. The results of said study shall be delivered to the Committee within 18 months of the enactment of this act. The number of officers authorized to serve within the ranks of the NOAA Commissioned Officer Corps shall increase from 299 to 321. The Committee provides sufficient funding under the Marine Services account for this adjustment in personnel.

NOAA Education Program.—The Committee provides \$42,368,000 for education programs, \$23,007,000 above the budget request. The Joint Ocean Commission continues to highlight the need for ocean literacy and broaden young people's awareness of ocean issues that affect their daily lives. NOAA has established a successful track record of engaging all levels of the education community to send a clear, consistent message on ocean science using different media and methods tailored to individual community needs.

BWET Regional Program.—The Committee firmly believes in the existing BWET programs in California, the Chesapeake Bay region, and in Hawaii and has provided additional resources for the expansion of the program to include other regions of the country.

Working Capital Fund.—The Committee has continued to recommend appropriations for NOAA and Commerce Department corporate costs under "NOAA-wide Program Support". The Committee disapproves of the practice of allocating, or "tithing", corporate costs across programs, projects, and activities.

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PROCUREMENT, ACQUISITION AND CONSTRUCTION

Appropriations, 2007	\$1,110,119,000
Budget estimate, 2008	979,893,000
Committee recommendation	1,089,000,000

The Committee recommendation provides \$1,089,000,000. The recommendation is \$21,119,000 below the fiscal year 2007 enacted level, excluding supplemental appropriations, and \$109,107,000 above the budget request.

Committee recommendations are displayed in the following table:

PROCUREMENT, ACQUISITION AND CONSTRUCTION

[In thousands of dollars]

	Committee Rec- ommendation
National Ocean Service:	
Coastal and Estuarine Land Protection Program (no more than 3 percent admin.)	49,000
National Estuarine Research Reserve Construction and Land Acquisition	7,178
Marine Sanctuaries Construction/Acquisition	5,842
National IOOS Data Management and Communications Center	10,000
Gulf of Mexico Disaster Response Center	6,000
Congressionally Directed Projects	25,750
Total, National Ocean Service—PAC	103,770
National Marine Fisheries Service: Congressionally Directed Projects	2,000
Total, National Marine Fisheries Service—PAC	2,000
Oceanic and Atmospheric Research: Research Supercomputing/CCRI	10,379
Total, Oceanic and Atmospheric Research—PAC	10,379
National Weather Service:	
Systems Acquisition:	
ASOS	1,635
AWIPS	12,764
NEXRAD	8,376
NWSTG Legacy Replacement	1,195
Radiosonde Network Replacement	4,014
Weather and Climate Supercomputing	26,169
Cooperative Observer Network Modernization (NERON)	4,234
NOAA Profiler Network	5,100
Complete and Sustain NOAA Weather Radio	5,594
Subtotal, NWS Systems Acquisition	69,081
Construction:	
WFO Construction	12,504
Center for Weather and Climate Prediction (NCEP)	26,410
Subtotal, NWS Construction	38,914
Total, National Weather Service—PAC	107,995
NESDIS:	
Systems Acquisition and Construction:	
Geostationary Systems (GOES-N)	80,379
Geostationary Systems (GOES-R)	264,000
Polar Orbiting Systems (POES)	114,906
Polar Orbiting Systems (NPOESS)	331,300
EOS and Advanced Polar Data Processing, Distribution and Archiving Systems	990
CIP—single point of failure	2,772
NOAA/NASA Space Wx Continuity of Operations	5,000

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PROCUREMENT, ACQUISITION AND CONSTRUCTION—Continued

[In thousands of dollars]

	Committee Rec- ommendation
Comprehensive Large Array Data Stewardship System (CLASS)	6,476
NPOESS Climate Sensors	24,700
NPOESS Preparatory Data Exploration	2,455
Satellite CDA Facility	2,228
Total, NESDIS—PAC	835,206
Program Support:	
Construction:	
Pacific Regional Facility	20,250
Construction (Sec. 212)	
Subtotal, Construction	20,250
OMAO Fleet Replacement:	
Fisheries Survey Vessel (design phase for #5 and #6)	5,000
Hydro Survey Launch Construction	2,400
Vessel Equip. and Tech Refresh	1,000
Temporary Berthing for HENRY B. BIGELOW	1,000
Subtotal, OMAO Fleet Replacement	9,400
Total, Program Support—PAC	29,650
GRAND TOTAL PAC	1,089,000

[In thousands of dollars]

Project	Committee rec- ommendation	Requested by
NATIONAL OCEAN SERVICE		
Center for Marine Aquaculture, to construct a center to provide scientists, engineers, and economists the capability to apply recent advances in aquaculture, biotechnology, pathology, nutrition, genetics, engineering, microbiology, and economics to remove the technical and profitability constraints to growth of a marine aquaculture industry. Univ. of Southern Mississippi, Stennis, MS.	11,000	Cochran
Science Center Building, feasibility study funding for NOAA to implement and administer a open-source feasibility study for a comprehensive science center at the campus of Stennis Space Center, MS.	1,000	Cochran
National Marine Sanctuary Learning Center, for construction of learning center, Hawaiian Islands Humpback Whale National Marine Sanctuary, Hawaiian Islands, HI.	2,000	Inouye
Gulf of Farallones NMS Exhibit, to enhance the public awareness of the Sanctuary and human dependence upon a healthy ocean ecosystem, Fitzgerald Marine Reserve, San Mateo County, CA.	750	Feinstein
Thunder Bay NMS Exhibit, for the completion of permanent displays for the facility's new visitor center, Thunder Bay NMS, Alpena, MI.	2,000	Levin, Stabenow
Mill Creek Conservation, conservation of coastal environment, Mill Creek Conservation, North Kingston, RI.	1,500	Reed
Great Bay Partnership, for continued conservation of critical habitats in Great Bay, NH.	5,000	Gregg
NATIONAL MARINE FISHERIES SERVICE		
Center for Aquatic Resource Management, to work together with state and federal partners to develop and implement strategies for sustainable practices that will protect and restore aquatic resources, Auburn Univ., Auburn, AL.	2,000	Shelby

Coastal and Estuarine Land Protection [CELP].—The Coastal and Estuarine Land Protection Program [CELP] provides grants to

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eligible State agencies and local governments to acquire property or conservation easements from willing sellers within a State's coastal zone or coastal watershed boundary.

The Committee recommends \$49,000,000 for the CELP program, a \$34,000,000 increase over the budget request and a \$12,000,000 increase over the enacted level.

In the fiscal year 2006 appropriation, Congress began directing NOAA to review and prioritize eligible projects submitted under approved State CELP plans or by the State's coastal program. The Committee recommendation makes the program 100 percent competitive and merit based. The Committee is aware of several projects that were anticipating funding through congressional directive. In light of this change, the Committee directs NOAA to re-open the 2008 competition, no later than 45 days after enactment, to allow additional projects to be considered for funding.

Satellites.—The Committee remains extremely concerned with regard to NOAA's satellite programs. The Committee believes that continuous oversight by Congress is necessary given NOAA's track record and has provided a general provision to the bill that is similar to the Defense Department's Nunn-McCurdy certification procedures. In addition, the Committee is extremely concerned about staffing within the agency and whether the necessary expertise is on board. The Committee directs NOAA to provide quarterly updates to the Committee regarding its satellite program, including staffing plans, budget, and technical risks.

Hurricane Tracking and Forecasting Data Preservation and Continuity.—The Committee is concerned with reports about the degradation in the QuickSCAT Satellite which NOAA provides with data on sea surface winds. This data goes into the models of the NOAA Hurricane Center and aids in hurricane forecasts. Accurate hurricane forecasting is of the utmost importance to protecting life and property, and the Nation must ensure that our means of collecting data are reliable and up to date. It is imperative that the National Weather Service has alternatives to the single Hurricane Hunter Jet Aircraft and the QuickSCAT satellite, because each contributes significant data to hurricane tracking and forecasting models. The Committee directs NOAA to provide the Committee on Appropriations with a report, including cost projections, on plans for replacement of these assets so that continuity of operations is not lost.

NPOESS.—The Committee has long been concerned with the NPOESS program. The old adage of "not having all your eggs in one basket" has certainly come true with this program. Following significant cost overruns, and Nunn-McCurdy certification, NOAA and the Department of Defense de-manifested several critically important climate sensors for budgetary purposes. The National Research Counsel's Decadal Survey warned of a growing crisis in our Nation's ability to observe the Earth's climate. The Decadal Survey recommended that "NOAA should restore several key climate, environmental, and weather observation capabilities to its planned NPOESS and GOES-R missions.

The Committee is aware that a confidential report produced by NOAA and NASA for the White House states, "the recent loss of climate sensors due to the NPOESS Nunn-McCurdy certification

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places the overall climate program in serious jeopardy." It now appears that the administration is beginning to realize the short sightedness of these decisions and is planning to restore some of these sensors to the program.

In the report NASA and NOAA have recommended to the White House restoring several climate sensors to the program. There recommendations include, among others: (1) building three Total Solar Irradiance Sensors [TSIS]; (2) installing the existing CERES instrument on the NPP mission; and (3) building two Earth Radiation Budget Sensors [ERBS] included onto the NPOESS C1 and C3 missions.

The Committee remains skeptical on whether the administration will actually increase NOAA and NASA budgets to pay for these internal, "Pre-decisional" recommendations. The Committee suspects that instead of paying for this vital investment through increased funding, the administration will instead try to do things on the cheap or better yet, redirect funds away from NOAA's other programs.

Given the looming crisis in our Nation's ability to observe our planet and measure its climate variable, the Committee recommendation includes \$30,000,000 for the restoration of climate sensors to the NPOESS program.

GOES-R.—The Committee is concerned that over 26 percent of the budget structure for the program is for "Government Program Office Operations". The Committee feels that these reserves provide a false sense of security for the program managers leading to future problems. Accordingly, the Committee has reduced these overhead costs and redirected to the restoration of climate sensors.

Fish and Wildlife Coordination Act.—The funds included in the Committee recommendation for the Mill Creek Conservation, North Kingstown, Rhode Island will be used expressly to acquire lands or interest in lands that include significant conservation, recreation, ecological, historical or aesthetic values.

Gulf of Mexico Disaster Response Center.—The Committee recommendation provides \$6,000,000 for the establishment of a NOAA Gulf of Mexico Disaster Response Center ("Center") in order for the National Ocean Service [NOS] to better respond to severe weather events. The Center shall house and consolidate the NOS National Response Teams, NOS Response and Restoration, NOS Damage Assessment and others at the Maritime Center for the gulf.

Pacific Marine Operations Center.—The Committee is aware of a recent fire in Seattle, Washington, that damaged or destroyed several NOAA facilities located on Lake Union, including buildings, docks and NOAA ships that service the Pacific region. The Committee directs NOAA to submit to the Senate Committee on Appropriations a full assessment of the damage, loss of capability, and estimated replacement costs for NOAA's damaged assets as soon as it can be determined.

PACIFIC COASTAL SALMON RECOVERY FUND

Appropriations, 2007	\$66,638,000
Budget estimate, 2008	66,825,000
Committee recommendation	90,000,000

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The Committee recommendation provides \$90,000,000 for the Pacific Coastal Salmon Recovery Fund. The recommendation is \$23,362,000 above the fiscal year 2007 enacted level and \$23,175,000 above the budget request.

The Committee is disappointed NOAA rejected the State of Alaska's fiscal year 2007 proposals for Salmon Enhancement projects. These funds are used to continue viable salmon fisheries and a sustainable salmon fishing industry. In addition, these projects are consistent with the Memorandum of Understanding between the State of Alaska and the National Marine Fisheries Service. Without these projects, the salmon population in Alaska runs the risk of depletion. NOAA should support and encourage the State's efforts to educate, enhance salmon stock, and develop infrastructure to support an environment to allow the Alaska salmon populations to continue to thrive.

COASTAL ZONE MANAGEMENT FUND

Appropriations, 2007	-\$3,000,000
Budget estimate, 2008	- 3,000,000
Committee recommendation	- 3,000,000

The recommendation includes requested language allowing not to exceed \$3,000,000 collected pursuant to the Coastal Zone Management Act to be transferred to the "Operations, Research and Facilities" account to offset the costs of implementing that act.

FISHERIES FINANCE PROGRAM ACCOUNT

Appropriations, 2007	-\$7,000,000
Budget estimate, 2008	- 1,000,000
Committee recommendation	- 1,000,000

Language is included as proposed only for loans to finance the purchase of Individual Fishing Quotas, which have a negative subsidy rate and do not require appropriations to cover the costs of the loan.

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OTHER

DEPARTMENTAL MANAGEMENT

SALARIES AND EXPENSES

Appropriations, 2007	\$47,121,000
Budget estimate, 2008	58,693,000
Committee recommendation	53,193,000

The Committee recommendation provides \$53,193,000 for Departmental Management Salaries and Expenses, of which \$2,000,000 is for the National Medal of Technology. The recommendation is \$6,072,000 above the fiscal year 2007 enacted level and \$5,500,000 below the budget request.

Within Departmental Management, the Salaries and Expenses account provides funding for the Secretary, Deputy Secretary, and support staff. Responsibilities involve policy development and implementation affecting United States and international activities, as well as, establishing internal goals and operations of the Department.

HCHB RENOVATION AND MODERNIZATION

Appropriations, 2007	
Budget estimate, 2008	\$4,300,000
Committee recommendation	5,100,000

The Committee recommendation provides \$5,100,000 for the HCHB Renovation. Within the funds provided the following congressionally directed project is funded: \$800,000 is for the National Aquarium, Washington, DC, for HCHB rental payments and cost of planning and design of new space within HCHB (Mikulski).

UNITED STATES TRAVEL AND TOURISM PROMOTION

Appropriations, 2007	\$3,949,000
Budget estimate, 2008	
Committee recommendation	

The Committee recommendation provides no funding for United States Travel and Tourism Promotion as requested by the administration.

The Committee directs the Secretary to submit a report to the Senate Committees on Appropriations and Commerce regarding the use of fiscal year 2004, fiscal year 2005, and fiscal year 2006 funding provided to the Travel and Tourism Promotion Advisory Board. The report shall detail what actions have been taken to stimulate tourism in the United States. The report shall be submitted to the Committees no later than February 1, 2008.

OFFICE OF INSPECTOR GENERAL

Appropriations, 2007	\$22,592,000
Budget estimate, 2008	23,426,000
Committee recommendation	23,426,000

The Committee recommendation provides \$23,426,000. The recommendation is \$834,000 above the fiscal year 2007 enacted level and the same as the budget request.

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NATIONAL INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY LAW ENFORCEMENT COORDINATION COUNCIL

Appropriations, 2007	
Budget estimate, 2008	\$1,000,000
Committee recommendation	1,000,000

The Committee recommendation provides \$1,000,000. The recommendation is \$1,000,000 above the fiscal year 2007 enacted level and the same as the budget request.

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GENERAL PROVISIONS—DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

Section 101 makes Commerce Department funds available for advanced payments only upon certification of officials designated by the Secretary that such payments are considered to be in the public interest.

Section 102 makes appropriations for salaries and expenses available for the hire of passenger motor vehicles, and for services, uniforms, and allowances as authorized by law.

Section 103 provides the authority to transfer funds between Department of Commerce accounts and within NOAA appropriations. The provision makes transfers subject to the Committee's standard reprogramming procedures.

Section 104 provides that any cost resulting from personnel actions shall be absorbed by the affected Department or Agency.

Section 105 extends guarantee authority and makes appropriations for salaries and administrative expenses to administer the Emergency Steel Loan Guarantee Program available until expended.

Section 106 prohibits the use of any appropriated funds to trademark the phrase "Last Best Place".

Section 107 would establish authority for ITA to use appropriated funds for sequestered North American Free Trade Act panelists.

Section 108 extends the Department of Commerce's personnel demonstration project.

Section 109 provides technical corrections related to the elimination of the Technology Administration.

Section 110 authorizes the Secretary of Commerce to prescribe and enforce standards or regulations affecting safety and health in the context of scientific and occupational diving within the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration.

Section 111 provides authority to begin construction on the NOAA Pacific Regional Center.

Section 112 provides authority for a voluntary fishing capacity reduction program.

Section 113 provides authority to begin construction on the NIST Building 1 Extension.